

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) A device for linear pad printing products with significant variations between them by means of a linear pad, said device comprising:

a cliché, ~~[[and]]~~

at least one pad with a primary guide provided for ~~[[the]]~~ a main movement of the pad~~[[,]]~~
and which provides for a movement function, ~~wherein said device comprises and~~

at least one secondary guide as a buffer element for buffering ~~[[the]]~~ differences in effective deposit depth between ~~[[the]]~~ individual products to be printed,

wherein said at least one secondary guide is arranged axially and externally with respect to said pad ~~and outwardly thereto~~ so as to act ~~thereon~~ on the pad.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A device according to claim 25, wherein said at least one secondary guide is provided for buffering the differences in the effective deposit depth between a plurality of individual products to be printed which consist of confectionery, including sugared almonds and chocolates, and/or pharmaceutical tablets, ~~selectively~~ and/or individual fragile products including porcelain ware.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, wherein each said secondary buffer element is formed by spring type elastic elements, ~~preferably of the spring type,~~ which are arranged substantially axially relative to ~~[[the]]~~ a movement axis of the pad.

28. (Currently amended) A device ~~accordingly~~ according to claim 25, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising a piece holder for receiving the products to be printed,

wherein:

said piece holder is provided with apertures ~~provided therefore, wherein~~

the products to be printed can be taken up by the piece holder, ~~wherein~~

the position and the orientation of the product relative to ~~[[the]]~~ a printing unit can be brought in correspondence with the ~~one~~ aperture which is necessary for printing the image through the aperture at the appropriate position on the product.

29. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 25, wherein said at least one pad is solid.

30. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 25, wherein said at least one pad is hollow.

31. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising a set of multiple printing pads for each primary guide ~~in said device~~ by means whereof various products can be printed simultaneously with the buffering action of said secondary buffer elements.

32. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising, for each printing unit, a set of primary and respectively secondary elements, which are arranged by respective pairs, wherein said secondary elements are each connected directly to a corresponding pad and which are disposed according to ~~[[the]]~~ a movement axis ~~thereof of the corresponding pad~~.

33. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, wherein ~~[[it]]~~ the device is integrated in an automatic or manual machine ~~selectively~~.

34. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, ~~wherein it is provided with~~ further comprising printing means for printing products with various colors.

35. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A device according to claim 25, ~~wherein it is provided with~~ further comprising printing means for printing products on various sides ~~thereof~~ of the products.

36. (Currently amended) A method for linear pad printing products with significant variations between them by means of a pad, ~~wherein~~ comprising:

applying printing material ~~is applied~~ on a cliché according to a determined pattern,
~~wherein bringing~~ a pad and a cliché ~~are brought into~~ a mutual contact [[B]] position
from a rest position [[A]] by means of a primary guide,
wherein:
the printing material is taken up by the pad of the cliché, and ~~in that~~
when taking up said printing material, [[the]] at least one additional secondary guide
arranged external to the pad buffers the contact between the pad and the cliché,
after ~~which~~ the taking up of said printing material the pad is moved in a deposit position
[[C]],

~~wherein the~~ an image corresponding to said printing material taken up by the pad is
deposited on the product to be printed, ~~wherein and~~
said at least one secondary guide ~~elements~~ axially buffers [[the]] contact between the pad
and the products to be printed, accounting for differences in effective deposit depth between
individual products to be printed, and

after ~~which~~ the image is deposited, said pad is moved back to its rest position [[A]].

37. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method ~~for printing products with mutual significant variations, by means of a pad,~~ according to claim 36, ~~wherein printing material is applied on a cliché according to a determined pattern,~~ wherein:

[[the]] parameters of the products to be printed are measured previously, ~~such as in particular and~~

the parameters comprise dimensions of the products.

38. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein said at least one secondary guide buffers [[the]] differences in the effective deposit depth between a plurality of individual products to be printed which consist of confectionery including sugared almonds and chocolates, and/or pharmaceutical tablets, ~~selectively~~ and/or individual fragile products including porcelain ware.

39. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein said method is performed by a device comprising:

at least one pad with [[a]] the primary guide provided for the main movement of the pad, which provides for a movement function, ~~wherein~~

~~said device comprises~~ said at least one secondary guide as buffer element for buffering the differences in the effective deposit depth between the individual products to be printed, ~~wherein and~~

said at least one secondary guide which is arranged axially and externally with respect to said pad ~~and outwardly thereto~~ so as to act ~~thereon~~ on the pad.

40. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 36, wherein a plurality of products are printed substantially simultaneously.

41. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[36]]~~ 37, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ printing parameters of ~~[[the]]~~ a printing unit are adapted to ~~[[the]]~~ requirements based on the basis of the measured product parameters by means of a processing unit ~~provided therefor~~, which processing unit establishes ~~[[the]]~~ a link between the measured parameters and ~~[[the]]~~ related printing parameters for the printing unit.

42. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein said product parameters are measured by means of an automated system ~~on the basis of~~ using cameras ~~provided therefor~~.

43. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein:
the products are checked after printing by means of a control system ~~provided therefor~~,
wherein and
at least one of the printed product as such and/or and the printing itself on the product are checked.

44. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein:
the taking up and the deposit depth, and ~~[[the]]~~ a shape and ~~[[the]]~~ an effective hardness of the pad are set individually as parameters, ~~wherein~~ such that an optimum printing is carried out on an individual product basis.

45. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, ~~wherein~~ further comprising conditioning of the product to be printed in ~~[[the]]~~ a printing environment is ~~proposed, in particular the piece holder~~, with regard to conditioning parameters, ~~such as~~ said conditioning parameters comprising at least one of temperature, pressure and humidity.

46. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method accordingly to claim 36, ~~wherein~~ further comprising conditioning of ~~[[the]]~~ substance to be printed, ~~such as said substance comprising one of ink[[,]] or chocolate, and the like is proposed~~ with regard to ~~[[the]]~~ conditioning parameters ~~[[of]]~~ comprising at least one of temperature, viscosity and color in order to keep the printing quality substantially constant.

47. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 36, wherein the printing of the product is carried out by means of a plurality of colors.

48. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein the printing of the product is carried out on a plurality of sides ~~thereof~~ of the product.

49. (New) A device according to claim 25, wherein each of the at least one secondary guides comprises a spring arranged around a shaft.

50. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein each of the at least one secondary guides comprises a spring arranged around a shaft.